

## Working Talking Lunch Tables – 40-minute session

### Topics will be chosen at registration on Wednesday 8th March 2023

After the morning workshop delegates will be invited to collect their lunch then join their chosen table to have an informal conversation on their chosen topic.

Each table will have a facilitator who will introduce one of the following topics and then encourage discussion keeping the conversation on the right track. At the end of the session each facilitator will pinpoint two key areas of conversation which will then be feedback to the conference organisers. These points will provide insight and direction for GWT allowing the team to consider needs and priorities moving forward.

#### 1. **A “Depth of Intergenerational Engagement” continuum.**

Join **Prof. Matt Kaplan** to hear more about Intergenerational programs and activities and how they can be placed on a continuum, with points that correspond to different levels of intergenerational engagement, ranging from initiatives that provide no direct contact between age groups (point #1 on the continuum) to those that promote intensive contact and ongoing opportunities for intimacy (point # 7 on the scale). At our table, we’ll discuss various examples and likely outcomes for programs fitting into each point on the continuum and discuss strategies for moving up.

#### 2. **Intergenerational Work in Heritage**

Join **Jane Miller** to explore how local heritage can engage people of all ages and discover the many benefits which involve the outdoors, working with others, learning new skills, acquiring new knowledge, developing pride of place and sense of belonging. Together we’ll discuss how we can bring people of all ages together to create meaningful intergenerational heritage projects.

#### 3. **Not just the feel-good factor – Introducing NCFE accredited Intergenerational Qualifications Suite**

Effective Intergenerational (IG) practice does not just happen. It must be intentional, well planned and evaluated. Join **Judith Ish-Horowicz** to hear about the new Intergenerational Qualifications Suite (IQS) which is a set of nested qualifications leading to a level 3 Diploma in Intergenerational Education and Care. IQS will offer more opportunities for career progression in both education and the care sectors providing a full IG training pathway from teaching and care assistant to manager. Find out more as Judith discusses the importance of raising the profile and status of IG work.

#### 4. **Talking about research "arms of the octopus"**

Over the course of the last 9 years, the multi-disciplinary research group at Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia have embarked on several intergenerational research projects including: Socio-economic factors, social prescribing, the development of an eldergogy, hybrid workforce implications, implementation, and evaluation of a wide range of intergenerational programs. Each of these were described as “arms of the research octopus”. However, they didn’t have the head of the octopus, pulling their work together into a peak body and disseminating the work by way of professional development courses and presentations. Join **Emeritus Prof, Anneke Fitzgerald** and **hear how** they built the head of the octopus and pulled it all together. The **Australian Institute of Intergenerational Practice** originated in December 2021 and has since developed into a membership based not for profit company, led entirely by volunteers. In this talking table, Anneke

will elaborate on the research they are doing to build their evidence base for best practice and on the development of their Institute and its relationships internationally.



**5. Researching and evaluating intergenerational practice in creative and playful ways.**

At the heart of play is the process. The desire to do something for its own sake, to adapt in-the-moment to what is going on, to not worry about the outcome but trust that the process of play is valuable enough. At the heart of intergenerational practice are processes. Intergenerational work is defined by its purposeful intent but does not necessarily have to focus on predetermined outcomes or outputs. The process of relationship building is valuable enough. More research is needed which focuses on these processes. The question is, how should we attempt to understand them? **Lois Peach's** research has started to explore creative ways of researching and evaluating intergenerational practice which focus on the processes of intergenerational interaction and relationship building. At this talking table, whilst engaging in playful activity and conversation, the hope is that we may share thoughts and ideas about how future research and evaluation may be more creative and playful.

**6. Is it really about age? From ageism to generationism**

We do know that good-quality intergenerational practices can reduce ageism. Hence, the World Health Organization has recommended "intergenerational contact interventions" as a strategy to reduce ageism. However, ageism refers only to stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination on the basis of age, but at the same time, intergenerational practices are not just about age (how old you are) but about generational location (to which generations you belong). Join **Dr. Mariano Sanchez** to consider paying priority attention instead to stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination on the basis of generational positions, i.e., in terms of generationism, when planning our intergenerational practices.

**7. From practice to policy: How to influence local and national government through lobbying, communication and social media**

Join **Ruairidh Smith**, to explore ways in which your local projects can be used to influence policy, locally and nationally. This discussion will explore ways to connect with councillors, MSPs and other key decision-makers, to help raise awareness and support for intergenerational practice. We will also explore the power of social media and how best to use your platform to reach the right places.

**8. Intergenerational Practice in Social Work and Social Care**

The International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) explains that 'Social workers work in communities with people finding positive ways forward in the challenges they face in their lives. They help people build the kind of environments in which they want to live...' Intergenerational themes cut across many areas of social work practice. From Kinship Care, Family Group Conferencing, and young people transitioning to adult's services, to community-minded supports that work alongside people in the everyday - you will often find social workers amidst them all. The Scottish Government is currently debating a new National Care Service, intended to re-shape how care and support is experienced by those accessing support and those delivering it in the years ahead. Join Social Worker and GWT Trustee, **Jude Currie**, to explore how intergenerational practice can help create a good life and shape good quality social care and social work in our communities.

**9. Language and Community/Cainnt 's Coimhearsnachd/**

Join **Kirsty Strachen** who has been exploring the needs of older Scots and Gaelic speakers and those living with dementia, to blether about the impact on of language in communities and intergenerational work and how language can be a tool for community building.

**10. Trellis**

Join **Jenny Simpson and Joan Wilson** to hear about their recent work supporting an intergenerational prison garden. The project involves older men interacting with a younger cohort of residents to pass on their gardening skills. In addition, a group of elderly care home residents, travel locally to take part in gardening sessions in the group's beautiful walled garden. Trellis would like to understand your needs and help break down the barriers to engaging in gardening activities in all settings. They welcome this opportunity to explore the use of gardening as a way of engaging the generations in dialogue, mutual social support, and wellbeing. No previous gardening knowledge required or assumed!

Please note an email will be circulated the week prior to the conference giving delegates details of all the talking tables allowing you the opportunity to read the descriptors before booking a table on the morning of the conference.

**Please note we hope to bring you 10-12 tables in total to choose from, the above are a selection of what we have confirmed so far.**